

## REMARKS

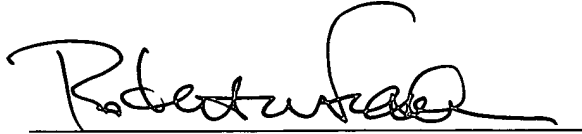
Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 22-33 will be pending in the present application, which is a division of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/451,478 filed November 30, 2000. New claims 22-33 replace cancelled claims 1-21, which were originally-filed in the present divisional application, but were recently recognized as being inadvertently duplicative of corresponding claims in co-owned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/451,478 filed November 30, 2000, for which a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due and Notice of Allowability issued on June 27, 2002.

Applicants submit that new claims 22-33 are fully supported in the specification and in the parent '478 application (see claims 17-41 of the '478 application, which were withdrawn from consideration as being non-elected in response to a restriction requirement imposed upon the '478 application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants request examination and allowance of new claims 22-33 submitted herewith. The Examiner is invited to telephone the applicants' undersigned attorney at (312) 775-8123 if personal communication would expedite the present application.

Please charge any fees incurred in connection with this  
Preliminary Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,



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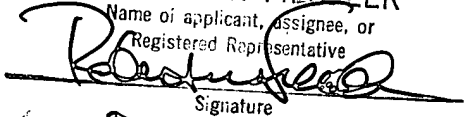
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Dated: September 20, 2002

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Registered Representative



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Date of Signature

Attorney Docket No. 12615US02  
Serial No. 10/003,644  
Stone et al.  
Group Art Unit 1745  
Examiner \_\_\_\_\_

APPENDIX A  
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 1-21 have been cancelled from the present application.

The following new claims 22-33 have been added to the  
present application:

5        22. A composite ion exchange membrane  
      comprising:  
          a stripped porous polymer film; and  
          an ion exchange polymer at least partially  
          filling the porosity of the film.

23. The membrane of claim 22 wherein the film is  
      microporous.

24. The membrane of claim 22 wherein the film  
      comprises a polyalkene.

25. The membrane of claim 24 wherein the  
      polyalkene is selected from the group consisting of  
      polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinylidene,  
      polyvinylidene halides, and copolymers thereof.

26. The membrane of claim 24 wherein the polyalkene is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, and ethylene-propylene copolymers.

27. The membrane of claim 24 wherein the polyalkene is polyethylene.

28. The membrane of claim 24 wherein the polyalkene is ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene.

29. The membrane of claim 22 wherein the ion exchange polymer comprises an  $\alpha,\beta,\beta$ -trifluorostyrenic monomer.

30. The membrane of claim 22 wherein the film is at least partially impregnated with a liquid composition of the ion exchange polymer.

31. The membrane of claim 30 wherein the ion exchange polymer comprises an  $\alpha,\beta,\beta$ -trifluorostyrenic monomer.

32. The membrane of claim 22, further comprising a solid particulate partially filling the porosity of the film.

33. The membrane of claim 22 wherein the membrane is substantially gas impermeable.